GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:989
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2016
News Coverage of Rural and Remote Areas
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note that the hinterland and remote area reporting over AIR and Doordarshan (DD) is scanty if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has any scheme to encourage rural and remote area reporting in its news bulletins and current affairs programmes;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to increase the coverage of reportings of these areas over AIR and DD along with the time by which it is likely to be done?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)

(a) to (d):
Doordarshan
Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan News always endeavour to report on rural and remote areas with 804 Stringers and 167 Part Time Correspondents empanelled with it and sends its reporters/crew from Headquarters whenever any newsworthy event happens in any corner of the country.
All India Radio
As a Public broadcaster, All India Radio has a special responsibility to transmit news and programmes with a view to inform and enlighten the people, especially in the rural and remote areas. All India Radio has a wide reach, covering the whole country. AIR disseminates news and views to every section of population and also people living in the remote areas through its network of 46 Regional News Units (RNUs) located in different part of the country.
It is the constant endeavor of AIR to increase and further expand the coverage and strengthen its news gathering network, particularly from the rural area. For its news gathering, AIR has a team of 53 regular correspondents posts in State capitals and other important news generating centres. Besides, it has 518 Part-Time Correspondents (PTCs), mostly based at district headquarters, who file news to RNUs as well as headquarters in Delhi.
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